NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION
JOHN C. STENNIS SPACE CENTER

RECOMMENDATION AND DETERMINATION TO SOLICIT FROM ONE SOURCE

I recommend that NASA, Stennis Space Center negotiate with Chemical Propulsion Information Analysis Center (CPIAC) at The Johns Hopkins University, Whiting School of Engineering for Operation and Maintenance of the Rocket Propulsion Test Facilities (RPTF) Database. This requirement is considered to be a commercial item. It is anticipated that this requirement will be provided under a fixed price contract. The total estimated cost of this effort is $15,000.00 per year with a five (5) year period of performance, including base year and four one-year options, for a total estimated contract value of $75,000.00.

As a chartered U.S. Department of Defense Information Analysis Center (IAC), the CPIAC is sponsored by the Defense Technical Information Center (DITC) of the Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA). CPIAC is the government designated repository for rocket propulsion scientific and technical data. It is the U.S. national clearinghouse and technical resource center for data, reports, and analyses related to system and component level technologies for chemical, electrical, and nuclear propulsion for rockets, missiles, and space and gun propulsion systems. CPIAC also provides technical and administrative support to the Joint Army-Navy-NASA-Air Force (JANNAF) Interagency Propulsion Committee, the primary technical information exchange platform for the U.S. propulsion industry.

In 2002 CPIAC was contracted by the National Rocket Propulsion Test Alliance (NRPTA) to develop and host the Rocket Propulsion Test Facilities (RPTF) Database as a relational database containing information on the capabilities, condition, and points of contact for over 3,000 individual rocket propulsion test facilities, both government and commercial, throughout the United States. Since 2006 the Rocket Propulsion Test (RPT) Program, as the NASA representative to the NRPTA, has funded the continued development, operation, and maintenance of the RPTF Database.

This recommendation is made pursuant to FAR 13.106-1(b), for the acquisition of supplies or services determined to be reasonably available from only one source. Competition is impractical for the following reasons:

1. The RPTF Database was designed and developed by the CPIAC. As such, the staff at CPIAC is intimately familiar with the operation and maintenance of the database. Also, during the course of initially populating the database, CPIAC members have gained substantial knowledge of the test facilities operated by members of the National Rocket Propulsion Test Alliance (NRPTA). Bringing a new contractor up to the current level of expertise would be time consuming and significantly add to the government's cost. This contract is vital to the operations of the NRPTA and continuing this contract with CPIAC is in the best interest of the Government.

2. While the software, data, and documentation associated with RPTF is property of the U.S. Government, the database currently resides on host servers provided by CPIAC. Transitioning to another contractor's facilities will result in an interruption of service and an unacceptable risk to data integrity.

3. Based on an estimated annual cost of $15,000 to maintain the existing contractor, CPIAC, it would not be cost effective to transition to a replacement contractor.

Pursuant to NFS 1805.207 and 1804.570, and FAR 5.201, a synopsis advertising the Government's intent to issue this requirement on a sole source basis and requesting capabilities of potential sources was published on the NASA Acquisition Internet Service (NAIS) and the Government wide point of entry (GPE) (FedBizOpps) on 08/12/2011. As of close of business August 22, 2011, no responses to the sole source synopsis were received from industry. Therefore, it is determined that Johns Hopkins University is the only source available for the Rocket Propulsion Test Facilities Database.

I do hereby certify that the support data under my cognizance that are included in this justification are accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief. In addition, I certify that the anticipated price to the Government will be thoroughly evaluated to ensure that it is fair and reasonable prior to award.

J. M. Cockrell 09/02/11

James M. Cockrell — Date
Deputy Manager
Rocket Propulsion Test Program

APPROVE/DISAPPROVE:

I hereby accept the above stated recommendation and determine that the circumstances of the contract action deem only one source reasonably available and certify that the anticipated costs to the Government will be determined fair and reasonable prior to award.

Beth L. Bradley 9/2/11

Beth Bradley — Date
Contracting Officer